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WATER.—The Water used is absolutely pure.

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SUPERVISION.—The whole process of manufacture is under the continuous supervision of a qualified English Chemist.

THE PRODUCT.—Will bear comparison with the Waters made by the most noted makers in England.

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VICTORIA DISPENSARY. [38]

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

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SEASON 1893-94.

THE FIRST SHIPMENTS OF OUR SUPPLIES OF GARDEN SEEDS

for this season have arrived, and we are now prepared to book orders for prompt or forward execution. Complete Catalogues with concise directions for sowing can be obtained on application, or will be posted to any address. In these Catalogues the seeds are marginally numbered in English and Chinese, and when ordering it is quite sufficient to state only the numbers of the kinds required.

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CLAY'S FERTILISER.

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LAWN MOWERS.

The best and cheapest machines in the market. Kept in stock and supplied at Manufacturer's prices.

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MANUAL OF GARDENING  
FOR THE TROPICS.

This work is alike interesting to the student of botany and to the practical gardener, and comprises a large number of plants which for the convenience of reference are arranged in separate groups and are headed with their ordinary and botanical names.

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FLOWERS, VEGETABLES, FRUIT  
TREES, &c.

is practically dealt with, and Pruning, Grafting, and Manuring thoroughly explained.

Price \$7.50.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
The Hongkong Dispensary.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1893.

MARRIAGE.

On September 16th, at Christ Church, Yoko-hama, by the Rev. E. Chapman Irvine, JAMES WILLIAM WEAVER, late of Hongkong, to LILLIE FRANCIS A. KILOODER, 184, Bluff, Yokohama. No cards.

TELEGRAMS.

PRESIDENT CARNOT AND THE CZAR.

LONDON, September 29th.

President Carnot has abandoned his expressed intention of going to Toulon to welcome the Russian Naval squadron. This decision has probably been arrived at in deference to the Czar's wish to avoid embarrassing political demonstrations.

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Señor Don Ortiz de Zavala, Spanish Consul at this port, for the following telegrams:

MANILA, September 29th,  
7.30 p.m.

There is a typhoon in the Pacific.  
September 30th,  
11 a.m.

The typhoon is now about to the eastward of Luzon.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

In 1841 all London houses were compelled to connect with sewers.

The Indo-China Co.'s steamer *Yi-tang* arrived Fowchow on Saturday last with a cargo of Bunker coal.

"SOLITUDE has charm," wrote Bulwer to his wife, and Lady Lytton dropped in on the great novelist unexpectedly, and found Solitude (or white muslin) sitting on his knee.

Mr. Clark, of Co., as it appears that the latter is his real name, is tall and commanding appearance, and of fair complexion; he wears a mustache only. He was, watching the proceedings in the Robinson's mastiff's cage. Needless to say, his arrest has caused a little excitement.

It is estimated, says the *Bulletin*, that one-third of the refined sugar landed in Sydney is refined in Mauritius and China, and, under a Custom-house quibble, entered at the port as "raw" sugar.

THE Mission steam-launch *Doy Sprong* will call alongside vessels hoisting code pennant C between 9 and 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, to convey men ashore to the 11 o'clock service, returning about 12.30 p.m.

THE greatest railway enterprise ever undertaken, the Trans-Siberian Railroad, from Russia to the Pacific Ocean, is to be completed in 1893, according to the present official programme of the Russian Government. It will be the longest railway in the world.

A SAN FRANCISCO paper states that Mr. Edwin Spencer Frost, of Mobile, Ala., who was for five years, beginning with Mr. Cleveland's first administration, United States Minister to Persia, has recently been appointed Consul-General to Singapore.

At the Magistracy to-day, before Commander Hastings, a sampan man was charged by Sergeant Niven with boarding the steamship *Wing-ko* this morning, without permission from the Captain. Defendant was fined \$10 or one month.

It is reported that the Japan Cotton-trading Company in Osaka is proposing to establish an agency in Shanghai, and that Mr. San, president of the Company will leave for China shortly, in order to investigate existing commercial conditions in China. Agents are stated to have been already secured in Bombay.

As there are numerous attractions to-morrow in Macao in the way of a grand religious procession in the afternoon, followed in the evening by a Fancy Fair in the San Francisco gardens, the steamer *Honam* will make a special trip to the Holy City at 9 a.m., returning by 10.30 p.m. at the reasonable fare of \$2 there and back. The weather promises to be splendid.

STATISTICS published by the Sanitary Bureau of the Home Department, show that up the 8th September, there had been thirty-seven thousand cases of dysteria in Japan, of which seven thousand had resulted fatally. The epidemic is still prevalent particularly in the prefectures of Kumamoto, Ehime, Wakayama, and Aichi, where the deaths are very numerous.

A KOKA paper says that the ill-starred expedition of Lieutenant Gantji to the Kuriles, has met with misfortune from the start, and is now said to be in imminent danger of starvation, unless supplies are sent before steamer cease running north for the season. There are 117 persons now belonging to the expedition, and at least 150 tons of rice are required without delay.

In the police-court this morning a Hongkong policeman was charged with keeping a "furious unsexed dog." Defendant when called up firmly seated himself in court, with the dog beside him.

Usher:—Stand up, please, and answer the charge!

Noblement:—Ob, can't I sit down, your Worship?

His Worship:—I don't see why you should stand up, both of you!

FROM October 1st the carrying trade between Algeria and France will be exclusively confined to French vessels, all foreign powers, including Great Britain, having given up the right to participate in it. This measure will chiefly affect British ships, which held the bulk of the trade. At Dumbek alone the British tonnage employed in trading with Algeria amounted in 1891 to 34,507 tons, net register and in 1892 to 31,103 tons.

BEFORE Commander Hastings, at the Magistracy to-day, Messrs. Siemens & Co. charged four coolies with being in unlawful possession of a quantity of sandalwood valued at \$10. It appears that while the wood was being discharged into the ship's hold, it had been taken by the defendants and stolen it, piece by piece, together with sundry scraps of old iron and horseshoes. The first defendant was sentenced to three months' hard labour and the others to smaller terms of imprisonment.

THE Minister for Labour in New Zealand is introducing a Bill to prevent shipowners infringing the shipping laws in strike times; to abolish the imprisonment and flogging of seamen leaving their ships because of a strike; to discontinue the small credit system by prohibiting the recovery of any sum under \$10 for goods supplied on credit to abolish distraint for debt under the disguise of "contempt of court." A pretty executive programme this, but taken all round a practical and sensible one.

THE following para is from *Sydney Bulletin*:—While Willard's Opera Co. was performing at Secunderabad (India), a British officer, "accompanied by a lady," suddenly made blackguardly references to one of the actresses. Musical director Wyatt mounted the stage and exposed the officer publicly. A complaint to the Officer Commanding followed, and, on the next Saturday night, the theatre was surrounded by howling British officers, "swaddling" their officers. Wyatt had to still the storm by apologising publicly, but the gallant gentlemen stayed around waiting to pommel him. They only caught Harry Hall (the late John L. Son). An officer pulled Harry's nose. Harry landed him in the mouth, but was badly beaten by two or three of the warriors, and took trial next morning with "two lovely black eyes."

THE *Telegraph* of the 21st September says—We regret to announce a somewhat sensational arrest made here yesterday. Mr. W. L. Clark (such is the name under which the gentleman has been registered for some months at the Oriental Hotel, Id.) though there are reasons to believe his name is *Lafayette Cole*, was arrested by order of the United States Consular Court for Hilo and Oahu yesterday afternoon, at the instance—we understand—of the Manager of the Hotel where he has been staying for several months. Mr. Clark, it is alleged, has obtained money under false pretences, broken windows, and a heavy bill at the Oriental Hotel. Drawn by him on parties in America have only been sent forward to be dishonored and protested. The particulars obtained, by a representative of this journal to-day make it only too evident that there is unfortunately grave reason to suspect the individual mentioned to have been guilty of dishonest practices; but pending a public hearing in Court it is scarcely fair to state them here. Mr. Clark, or Co., as it appears that the latter is his real name, is tall and commanding appearance, and of fair complexion; he wears a mustache only. He was, watching the proceedings in the Robinson's mastiff's cage. Needless to say, his arrest has caused a little excitement.

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We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) that the E. & A. S. Co.'s steamer *Catterham*, from Australia, left Port Darwin for this port on the 26th last.

ELECTRIC street railways in the United States have in operation a mileage which exceeds the sum of street railways run by other powers, viz. 5,030 miles run by electricity, 4,660 by horses, 440 by cable and 620 by steam.

A JAPANESE native paper is responsible for the following:—A woman living in Fukuoka prefecture, after being pregnant for thirteen months, was delivered first of one child, then on the following day of another, and on the succeeding day of a third, thus having three children in three days.

A CORRESPONDENT wants to know what has become of the "Hongkong Association" and the "Old Volleys." We regret our inability to give the desired information; but probably they are connected with the direction of these two societies.

WE are waiting for the cool weather before going on with active work.

THE *Hippo News* of Sept. 10th says that "the Osaka City Councilors' Board contemplated placing Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. aside on the list for tenders for supplying the iron water pipes. Certain members of the City Assembly, however, insist on the advisability of removing the firm from the list, and it is probable that with the new Board this section will have its way."

A SWATOW correspondent writes under date September 26th:—Yesterday we had an extraordinarily high tide here, it being only about six inches lower than that caused by the typhoon three weeks ago. The rise of water drove innumerable rats from the stone-work of the Bund, providing exciting sport for a number of Europeans and Chinese, who, with a miscellaneous collection of dogs, accounted for over two hundred of the "game."

A WELL-KNOWN master went into a store the other day and asked the pretty sales-woman for a pair of suspenders. "Suspenders or M-braces?" she asked, with a bewitching smile. The man thought there was but one reply possible to such a question, and so gallantly replied, "Embraces, of course." At which the girl took from a box a pair of braces, in form resembling the letter "M," and said, laconically, "one dollar, fifty cents, please."

THE Band of the 1st Shropshire Light Infantry will play the following programme at the Mount Austin Hotel this evening, commencing at 8 o'clock:—

March....."Imperial".....Sir A. Sullivan.  
Slow March....."The Old Guard".....Carter.  
"Summer Night".....Stevens, M.R.  
"Captain Thunder".....Plaquette.  
Fantasia....."Pastoral".....Williams.  
Lancers....."Pride of Croydon".....Waldegrave.  
Patriots....."Patriots".....Bullock.  
Petticoat....."Flying Monkeys".....Bullock.

Mr. J. J. Wright was charged at the Police Court this morning with allowing an alleged felonious dog to be at large unlicensed. The complainant, a chafie cooie in the employ of Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, deposed that at 6.30 p.m. on the 28th last, when he was waiting for his master at the tram station, the defendant's dog bit him on the thigh. The complainant plainly showed the mark of a bite he had received, but the case was eventually dismissed for want of identification.

THE "sailor's wife" who pleads for Justice to her class in the *United States Magazine*, is of the opinion that living in or near a dockyard town during her husband's absence is not the best thing in the world for a sailor's wife. She gets "shabby" and gossipy, and a great deal too keen in naval matters which concern her not. She wants neither to vegetate in the depths of the country, nor develop into a walking edition of the Queen's regulations, she is advised to make London her headquarters, and if possible, find some engrossing occupation there to make the time pass quickly, and to keep her from degenerating intellectually as well as growing older. The very best way to make her husband blind to the gray hairs and the wrinkles that a three years' separation will infallibly bring after a woman has passed her prime, is, according to this authority, to cultivate some new interest or some new accomplishment wherewith to surprise and please him on his return.

IN view of the possible advent of cholera in the United States, says a contemporary, many cheap and simple disinfectants have been proposed for the use of the people. Of these one of the most effective is common soot. Soot is composed of pure carbon, and is forced by the hot vapor of the hydro-carbon coming from burning fuel striking the cold walls of the chimney or stove, and condensing thereon. It is a very light, porous and impalpable powder, and, like charcoal, which is the same element in a different form, possesses the property of absorbing and retaining a wonderfully large amount of gas. The great danger of disease about seafarers, drains and other places is almost entirely due to gas given off by decomposing matter. If soot be sprinkled about these places it will absorb the foul gas. When cholera was expected in Baltimore, some sixteen years ago, Dr. Plagot, a celebrated chemist of that time, announced that the only disinfectant with which cholera could be at all effectively combated was copper or sulphate of iron, and he made a composition of charcoal and copper which was said to have been invaluable in its disinfecting properties. The general idea is disinfecting in, first, to provide a means for absorbing the death-dealing gas, carrying with it millions of diseased germs, and then the necessary agent to destroy the germs after they are absorbed. Charcoal has always been regarded as an excellent disinfectant, but as a matter of fact soot is superior to it from containing some of the oxidized hydro-carbons contained in the smoke from the fuel, and among these hydro-carbons is crotonic, a germ-killer of wonderful power.

THE "EASTERN CLUB."

At the Magistracy to-day, before Mr. Hastings, Charles Borcham appeared on remand in answer to the charge brought against him last Monday, that he had sold intoxicating liquors without a licence at the "Eastern Club," Praya East. Mr. G. C. C. Master, acting Crown Solicitor, conducted the prosecution, and Mr. H. L. Dennis appeared for the defence.

Mr. Master addressed the Court, quoting section 6 of Ord. 21 of 1886, under which the prosecution was taken. He then stated the facts (as to which there was no dispute), leading up to the purchase of liquors on the 23rd instant by two men sent into Borcham's place by Detective Sergeant Green. It would be first proved that the defendant had no licence; secondly, that a sale of liquor took place. The only possible plea for the defence to set up was that the liquors were sold to members only, and that the place was a regular and lawful club.

His Worship:—Is it a proprietary club? Mr. Master said that even if Smith was a member, and if the club was a proprietary club, yet if the profits of it went into Borcham's pocket, that would be enough to show that it was not such a place as could be used for selling liquors without a licence. The whole point was that liquors if sold at all must only be sold for the benefit of members—that, in fact, members in paying for drinks were only getting their own goods and paying themselves for it; and in that case Borcham must be able to show that he was the manager, and not making a profit himself. It did not matter whether the drinks were sold to members exclusively or to the general public; the point was that if an individual was making a profit out of alcohol he must have a licence, and if a club dealt in alcohol without a licence there must be no benefit to the proprietor from such dealing.

Mr. Dennis said he believed there was a club at Kowloon—at any rate there had been for many years until a recent date—kept by a proprietor who made a profit on drinks supplied to members only, just as in this case. However, there was a very recent decision, dated June last, in the case of the Press Super Club in London; it was decided by Justices Mathews and Wright that such a proprietary club must plead a licence; and therefore the defendant must plead guilty; but as this decision was so recent, and required such eminent lawyers to find it out, the defendant surely did not deserve more than a nominal penalty, since he had been honestly acting under a reasonable though mistaken belief that he was all right. It was absurd to put down as a serious crime a business which had been going on for six or eight months with the full knowledge of the police, who at first apparently agreed with defendant in thinking it perfectly legal. The defendant would plead guilty and appeal to his Worship to impose only a nominal fine and return the liquor seized—about \$200 worth. He had been convicted of selling to strangers recently, but there were plenty of witnesses to prove that was only an isolated offence, not a common one as might be thought. But for this recent London case just quoted there would have been a very strong defence, so that really the defendant could not be much to blame.

Mr. Master said he could not accept the plea of innocent ignorance, or *bona fide* belief in the legality of the club. There was ample evidence of a deliberate intention to evade the licensing laws by a colourable imitation of a club; and on these grounds the Crown must press the case to the end and ask for a heavy penalty, and forfeiture of the liquor seized.

Albert Thomas, *et al.*, unemployed, since the 12th inst., said:—I was in the Dockyard Police for eight months, and was dismissed for breaking leave. Up to December last I was on the *Ellisip*, and before that I was lighthouse keeper in the Customs service at Shanghai, but I found it too lonely and left. On the 23rd last, I was at the Eastern Club. Sergeant Green sent me, with a man called Ellis. I went in and asked for "two shandy-beers." Borcham supplied the drinks, and I gave him a dollar note. He took it and gave me 50 cents change. Sergeant Green gave me one dollar, which was all the money I had. We drank some of the liquor, and then defendant proposed we should play billiards. Defendant, Ellis, and I started playing, and when we had got to about ten o'clock, Green came in with two plain-clothes European policemen and two Chinese detectives. The two former I know well—Carnegie and McDonald. Borcham was in the room and he heard what passed. Green asked me "What are you doing here?" I replied "We are just having a drink and a game." He said "Did you pay for the drinks?" I said "Yes; do you think we got them for nothing?" Green then spoke to Borcham, who scolded the house, and went up to the Central Station, taking all of us and all the liquors. I have been going there a good while, perhaps 4 or 5 times—and have paid for drinks often. I never paid any subscription, but defendant

sope. Birds are reported plentiful, and altogether the 1893 season promises to be above the average for game of all kinds.

To-morrow (28th September) being the birthday or rather patron-saints day—of the King and Queen of Portugal, there will be a reception and State *levee* at Government House at 2 p.m., and a *soiree* at the "Gremio Militar" at 9 p.m.

On Sunday next (1st October) there will be a fancy fair and gorgeous festival, got up by the Italian Sisters and a committee of charitable ladies, in aid of the funds for the benefit of the orphans under the Sisters' care. As this is for the noble cause of charity, in its most genuine and praiseworthy form, it is earnestly to be hoped that a few of the well known philanthropical pictorialists of your port will come over and "let all men see the good that is done, and glorify our Father in heaven." Besides, altogether apart from the benevolent point of view, the show is sure to be well worth seeing, and the Steamboat Company will run a special excursion at cheap rates (weather permitting—bar typhoons) so that a numerous influx of visitors may safely be expected.

The Holy House of Mercy had many tickets for its lottery left over until last month, and as the prizes were mostly to the sold tickets, there was not much profit for the worthy Missionaries.

The *Janan* business continues to handsomely repay its conductors. Last Saturday saw quite a large crowd of foreigners in the principal houses, but it is not known whether they succeeded in their efforts at "bucking the tiger." (Presumably, therefore, they lost, or else the result would have been known.)

late advice from Timor, through private channels, indicate a large contraband trade by sea in the neighbourhood; and at present the authorities have no runabout, nor even a steam launch, to do patrol duty along the coast, so that there is no check on the smuggling except by land, which of course is inefficient. However, the gunboat *Illy* will return to that brighton spot shortly.

Last Friday afternoon (23rd September) a special thanksgiving service was held in the Cathedral, in commemoration of the Colony's providential escape from repetition of the typhoon of 1874. If we ever do have such another, there will be very little left of the "Gem of the Orient."

The command of the gunboat *Bengo*, vacated by Lieut. Belo, has been given to Lt. Lieut. Cavalliera d'Almeida, Mr. F. M. de Sales, solicitor, has been appointed Registrar-General and Protector of Chinese.

Capt. Morses, of the Portuguese Navy, has on behalf of the Government made special arrangements with the Osaka Arsenal for the purchase of \$1,700 worth of Ordnance for Macao and Timor.

The notorious *Telaroto*, which gave you in Hongkong so much trouble, arrived here on the 26th Inst., and is to sail for Brazil as soon as possible. However, her departure is delayed on account of all the "booby hatches" and other fittings for coolies having been, if my information is correct, destroyed or removed, so that all the work will have to be commenced afresh. There are at present 330 coolies ready to go in her—little more than half the number expected in spite of all the liberal promises held out. Some of the intending emigrants were vaccinated last week and the rest are now in the hands of the Colonial Surgeon. The date of the steamer's departure is not yet notified.

#### THE TANCHOW SILVER MINES.

Silver mining at Tanchow, near the Bogue Forts on the Canton River, still goes ahead and with continually increasing prospects of that substantial success for which the promoters have been so energetically striving, at a large monetary expense, for a number of years. Operations are at present, owing to many well-understood reasons, on a much more limited scale than was originally intended; but doubtless a wise discretion has been exercised in following this policy until the advent of better times all round, and until the great silver problem has got within a measurable distance of settlement, on some generally recognized basis—although it must be admitted that the decline of foreign nations will have very little influence on the value of the white metal throughout the Chinese Empire.

However, the Tanchow mines are in active work and apparently with very satisfactory results. Mr. H. Amet, the Managing Director, has courteously forwarded to the *Telegraph* the latest report of Mr. S. B. Saum, the mining engineer in charge at Tanchow, dated Sept. 28th.

Mr. S. B. Saum says:—"The lode that was struck by the North tunnel, No. 1 shaft, 325 feet level and 200 feet north of the main lode, has been followed on its course to the west about 45 feet, and to the east nearly 20 feet.

"The average width of the lode is 18 inches.

"At the cutting to the east we have continuously a streak of ore about eight inches wide; but at the cutting to the west the ore is not in a streak, but in large spots.

"The average value of this ore is over 100 cts. to the ton. I propose to shortly cut a pit on the dip of the lode and to follow it; strike below the 125 feet level."

#### AMOY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

September 27th, 1893.

When writing you on the 26th Inst. I made reference to the rumoured opening up to foreign trade of the two prefectoral cities—Chang-chow and Chian-chew, but after having made careful inquiries in reliable quarters I find there is little or no foundation for the original report; its origin, in fact, being nothing more substantial than the gossip of a few persons largely interested in the trade between this port and the cities named; only another instance of the wish being father to the thought. However, it is to be hoped that the question will before long receive the attention that it deserves, and that when that is done it will be pushed to a successful issue.

The tea trade is booming and all connected with the business are kept busy at work; packing goes on from morning till night and the Bund is a scene of general activity, quite a contrast to what it was a fortnight ago. The steamer *Pashan* sailed hence for New York, via Suez canal, on the 27th with a big lot of tea, and the sailing ship *Clan Grand* is booked for the same destination. The O. and C. Coy's *Galle* is also due, and further consignments await her. A strong gale sprang up last night and although still blowing hard from the north the loading and discharging of vessels in harbour are not being interfered with.

An incident, indicative of the worth and position of the Chinese medical profession as well as of the value in which human life (female) is held in China, occurred here the other day. A woman was taken ill and a practitioner, who professes that he has studied foreign medicines for over three years, was called in to attend her. He duly prescribed, and shortly after taking the first dose the poor woman was seized with strong convulsions and died in great agony. Upon investigation it was found that this modern medical apothecary had made up ten times the proper dose of the drug specified, but whether this was his error alone, or whether it was according to the prescription is not stated. Anyhow, the relatives of the dead woman promptly hasted up the worthy "doctor" and demanded compensation, and the "slightly

dollar" was brought into requisition with the success usually attending such cases, and he and his brilliant apothecary are once again in the full enjoyment of their liberty and fat practice.

#### THE QUESTION OF JURIES.

The jury system in civil cases is very much in trial just now. Juries themselves complain of the inconvenience and hardships which the present law imposes upon them; litigants, or at least those litigants who lose, denounce the system for its delays and uncertainty; and juries on appeal frequently reverse the verdicts of juries on the ground that no reasonable men could have come to such conclusions, and occasionally go still further, and declare verdicts to be "wicked," "monstrous," and "shameful." By some curious fatality all the unreasonable men in the community appear, if we may accept the Banco estimate of jury verdicts, to have an irresistible tendency towards the jury-box; and whatever juries' opinions of judges may be, the legal opinions of civil juries seem not to be invariably appreciative or complimentary to the latter. "The palladium of British Liberties" appears to be a bit shaky at present, and under all the circumstances, it is not surprising that a bill should have been introduced into the New South Wales Legislative Council to effect the abolition of juries for the trial of civil actions. Professively the bill is one to enable juries to be tried by a judge alone, the power to summon a jury being reserved to juries; but the measure, if passed, would, in practice, supersede the jury system altogether, leaving it to the judge to decide upon the facts as well as the law of the cases tried.

It may well be doubted whether the present evils are of sufficient importance to justify so radical a change as that suggested. As far as the juries themselves are concerned, complaints would be minimized, if the process of selection were altered so that a juror could not be called sooner than, say, once a year. The chief hardship now is that some men are summoned four or five times a year, while others are omitted year after year. And with regard to unreasonably verdicts, although it may be admitted that the Banco Court may have good reason for granting new trials in some cases, it must also be remembered that only in exceptional instances is there any appeal to the Full Court. As a rule litigants are content to accept the verdicts recorded, and only when there is reason to believe that the jury have erred in their any criticism of their finding. In this matter of doubted verdicts, too, there is room for question whether the verdict of a judge would be more usually accurate. The Full Court do not always agree with the decision on facts by the Chi. Judge in Equity, against whose findings they have to consider at least occasional appeals. And there seems no sufficient warrant for the assumption that the verdict of one man would be truer than the verdict of four, even if that one man were a judge. Judges notoriously have their prejudices, not only with regard to particular forms of action, but also with regard to classes of litigants. Such prejudices are sometimes manifested even when the responsibility of arriving at a right conclusion is reserved to the sole discretion of a jury, and would no doubt become still more manifest and notorious if the whole onus of trial and verdict were borne by the judge alone. In England, where juries have, since the adoption of the Judicature Act, been dispensed with in a large proportion of the cases tried, complaints as to erroneous and unreasonably decisions would still appear to be frequent, and although these are not usually expressed from the bench of the Appeal Court, it is clear that the one-man system has not proved itself a success. Here in the District Courts, in actions of importance inferior to Supreme Court suits, the one-man system has proved its advantages in the more speedy despatch of cases; but although the District Court judges are men of exceptional freedom from mental bias, it cannot be said that their administration of justice, in their courts has proved the wisdom of amalgamating the functions of judge and jury in cases within the Supreme Court jurisdiction.

If an alteration in the mode of trial in the higher courts is necessary, it may be that the most efficient reform would be by means of a modification of the present system of divided responsibility. Admittedly such errors as juries make may arise from their want of experience in the functions they are called upon to discharge. Even if a juror is summoned half a dozen times a year, the chances are that he is called upon to decide as many cases of wholly different character, and that the experience of one trial is of but slight use to him in another. Why should there not be permanent juries from whom panels would be detailed for every case? We have permanent juries and officers of the court; why not permanent jurors also? Business men would then be relieved of the inconveniences to which they are now subjected; litigants would know that their cases would be dealt with by men who would not easily be misled, and the judges would have in the conduct of a case the assistance of a body of men whose knowledge of the world would have qualified them to investigate questions of fact, and whose knowledge of litigation and counsel would prevent their being deceived by the tricks and artifices of advocacy. Such official jurors would be exempt from the bias of interest to which business men who have had dealings with one or other of the parties must necessarily be subject; and the duty of decision would be to permanent jurors carry with it a responsibility lighter than that which rests upon men who, having returned a verdict, go back to sit to their ordinary occupations. Nor need there be any fear of corruption of permanent jurors if ordinary means were used in the selection of a panel. Parties would not find it profitable to bribe half a dozen juries on the off chance that one of them would be selected; and, moreover, if a juror were a permanent officer his whole interest would be in maintaining his position and reputation.

The matter is one of the first importance, and deserving of a greater share of public attention than it has yet received. Some reform is certainly necessary, but we should be reluctant to believe that the true remedy is in the abolition of juries, and the fact that every lawyer in the Legislative Council favors the bill brought forward by the Hon. G. B. Simpson does not satisfy us that it is best that the judge should have the sole right of decision in matters of fact as well as in matters of law.—*Australian Star*.

#### WISE AND OTHERWISE.

(Compiled from many sources.)

The interest on borrowed trouble is always high.

"Pay as you go" and save enough to come back on.

Wife (to covetous husband)—Stand just there and let me sit in the shade.

Ambition is like love, impatient both of delays and rivals.

Contentment is the feeling that you are better off than your neighbour.

Tee bulls are glad that hay is now listed on the Stock Exchange.

Some people imagine that they deserve a month's rest every time they do right.

How He Knows—"How do you know he married her for his money?" "I've seen her."

There are some men who have to be knocked down first and argued with afterwards.

"SURPRISING.  
It often stumps a fellow.  
What in politics he notes  
How one man does it—claims it  
An' the other gets the votes.  
Oh, Those Girls!—Clara (after her song)—Did my voice fill the room? Prunella—No, it tempted it.

Ah, it's the way of the world. We never knew flowers on a man's grave until after he is dead.

The philosopher who wrote that a good name is better than riches never had a case in a court of law.

"The corn crop is likely to be very good," observed the chipmunk when he noticed that toothpick sticks were in style.

"When I was young we prepared students for life; now we prepare them for examinations,"

is a bit of truth from Jules Simon.

BORN WILD.

Some men and beasts you can improve,

Can win and tame their hearts to love;

But you can tame some natures never—

Like wild hyenas, wild forever.

It is interesting and somewhat disquieting to note how much more identification it takes to cash a cheque than it does to get lynched.

"Isn't it strange?" said little Tommy to his mother, just after returning from the kindergarten, "that a baby's first tooth should come at?"

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